

50X1-HUM

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Soviet Zone Germany
SUBJECT Military - Paramilitary
HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper
WHERE PUBLISHED Stuttgart
DATE PUBLISHED 15 Mar 1950
LANGUAGE German

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

DATE DIST. 22 Aug 1950

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANINGS OF ESPIONAGE ACT 50
U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION
OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-
HIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Stuttgarter Nachrichten, No 62, 1950.

THE ROLE OF THE PEOPLE'S POLICE
IN EAST GERMANY'S REMILITARIZATION

[The following article was originally entitled "Vorbereitung der
Revolution" (Preparations for Revolution).]

East Germany is engaged in remilitarization of a dual nature. One aspect concerns a future East-West conflict. The other is the preparation for anticipated political developments inside Germany.

The first-mentioned type of remilitarization has two phases: development of a suitable defense industry to supplement the requirements of the Red Army; and preparation of strategic bases for use in case of war, as well as adjustment to the Soviet system of certain German installations which would be essential in war.

Development of a defense industry includes expansion of uranium mining and institution of certain organizational measures in the (Leuna) chemical industry, as well as in the fields of optics, electrotechnics, and precision mechanics. It also takes into consideration completion of the experimental station in Peenemuende, where under the direction of Professor Svobotov (USSR) 24 Soviet and German scientists, including the German rocket specialist, Dr Richter, are engaged in the further development of German V-weapons. Construction of submarine bases, at least in Stettin, is also included in this program.

Preparations for strategic bases will include the immediate repair and construction of numerous airfields. Runways for jet-propelled aircraft are being constructed in many locations, particularly in Zerbst, where large USSR jet aircraft units are already stationed. The airfields for night fighters in Waren and Wustrow are being enlarged. Construction of 26 new airfields is planned. Take-off bases for V-1 rockets will be installed in Peenemuende, and the Island of Ruegen is being turned into a Soviet stronghold, with V-launching platforms and submarine pens. Navy installations are in process of construction at various points along the Baltic coast. In connection with the organizational unification of certain German institutions, the network of German map organizations is being joined to that of the USSR. Other unification measures are in progress.

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION		CONFIDENTIAL		DISTRIBUTION									
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB									
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FDI									

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

On the whole, the status of this type of defense is generally overestimated in the West. Preparations for an East-West conflict made thus far in Soviet Zone Germany can hardly be called of great significance. However, developments are taking a course which must be closely watched.

[The article then presents the following discussion of various aspects of the People's Police.]

Soviet Zone Germany's police system is composed of three branches: The People's Police, the State Security Service, and the People's Police Troops.

The People's Police consists of the administrative police (approximately 30,000 men), the regular police (approximately 50,000 men), and the criminal police (approximately 20,000 men), as well as sections of the coastal police. These divisions, which are strongly organized politically, perform the regular police functions in Soviet Zone Germany.

The State Security Service, which resembles the MVD, is an offshoot of the K-5 Section of the criminal police, which used to perform the functions of the political police. It was authorized to order arrests independent of the courts and in certain matters was under the direct supervision of the Soviet Military Administration. After the establishment of the Ministry for State Security the section was withdrawn from the administration of the criminal police.

A school for agents has been established in Halle under the direction of Major Nostikov (USSR) and the German General von Witzleben. Adalbert Baeumler, the German counterespionage specialist, and Chanov, a specialist from the Soviet Ministry for State Security, play a leading part in the development of the State Security Police.

All formations of the industrial, railroad, and alert police, as well as sections of the coastal police, are members of the People's Police Troops (Volkstruppenpolizei). They are stationed in barracks and may be considered the nucleus of a new army.

The present strength of the People's Police [hereafter, it is assumed that all three branches are referred to] is 150,000. Officially under the jurisdiction of Dr Steinhoff, Minister of Interior, the organization is actually responsible to Herr Ulbricht, Deputy Minister President. Most of the formations of the People's Police are camouflaged as police training schools; the balance consists of "Bereitschaften," or alert units. There are at least 149 police schools and alert units: 49 in Brandenburg, 31 in Sachsen-Anhalt, 25 in Sachsen, 17 in Thuringen, 25 in Mecklenburg, and 2 in East Berlin. The units vary in strength between 800 and 1,200 men.

Approximately 1,000 officers each will be trained in the following schools: Rostock (infantry), Gloewen (artillery), Kuechensee (special tasks), and Kochstedt (staff officers). Kochstedt and Perleberg are conducting special courses for the theoretical training of fliers.

The officers' training course in Gloewen, which is nearing completion, was under the direction of Inspector Thelov, who commanded the 11th International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War.

About 30 German guns (LFK-18 light field cannon and SFK-18 heavy field cannon, antitank artillery, and infantry guns) were supplied for training. The training is similar to that in the German Armed Forces, and the old service regulations are still in use. Intensive political training by Soviet officers in People's Police uniforms has been added.

New groups of officers are recruited from all classes, and membership in the SED is no longer required. Preference is given to former Soviet prisoners of war, particularly those with the rank of officer, who have completed retraining in the USSR. Former German soldiers who served as prisoners of war in

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

western countries are generally turned down. Young men of "bourgeois" background, who have no opportunity to pursue higher studies, frequently apply for officers' training. The key positions are staffed with either Communists or former German officers who have undergone retraining in the USSR. High-ranking officers generally have two deputies, one of whom is a commissar.

All former German officers and specially trained military personnel in Soviet Zone Germany have been registered.

Recruiting for the People's Police is on a voluntary basis. High wages (300 German marks) and adequate maintenance are great inducements. Recruiting campaigns are also conducted. Occasionally, indirect pressure is brought to bear. (A highly classified circular letter dated 22 November 1949 and signed by the Land Chairman of the Free German Trade Union [FDGB] for Sachsen-Anhalt indicates that the trade union functionaries were ordered to screen members in the 18 - 25 age groups for fitness, and, when opportune, to "suggest" to them enlistment in the People's Police.)

Western press reports on the arming of the People's Police have frequently been exaggerated. It is true that all units of this force are supplied with pistols, carbines, machine guns, and automatic rifles, and to some extent with light and heavy mortars. Most of the units, however, are only partly equipped. Frequently only 200 to 400 carbines are available per 1,000 men. None of the units are fully equipped with artillery or armored vehicles. However, some tanks (presumably T-34 and Stalin tanks) and German artillery have been allotted to certain training schools. The Grossenhain police school, which specializes in tank training, has about 30 tanks. Weapons from old German army depots are used as standard equipment, although the trainees are familiarized with USSR special arms. There is no actual fight training.

Measured by military standards, the People's Police has not yet attained any appreciable significance. Only 30-40 percent of the force can be considered somewhat reliable at this time, but East German high officials are convinced that the degree of dependability will improve with the intensification of political training.

- E N D -

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL